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Approved For Release 2003/10/29 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003600050002-0

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*11872P*  
**T.S. CONT. #**  
**D-I. HQ USAF**

**TOP SECRET**  
**Auth CS, USAF**

*new*  
**14 Apr 50**

**18 APR 1950**

*copy # 2*  
**023945**

**MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

(Attention: Chief, Coordination, Operations and  
Policy Staff)

**SUBJECT: Comments on "Proposed Watch Committee"**

1. The Air Force IAC Standing Committee Member has reviewed the draft, "Proposed Interagency Operating Procedure," (Watch Committee), 6 March 1950, and concurs in the desirability of formalizing the present Check List Group into a Watch Committee as outlined, with the following modification:

a. Change Paragraph 8, a (4) (last sentence) to read: Such summaries shall be considered in the preparation of coordinated national intelligence estimates.

b. Delete Paragraph 8, a (5).

~~1 incl:~~  
~~0- CIA Memo~~  
~~dtg 6 Mar 50~~  
~~w/ 1 incl w/d~~

JOHN C. MARCHANT  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Air Force Member  
I.A.C. Standing Committee

*Copy sent ORF  
Apr 19 50*

Army, Navy, JCS and State Department  
review(s) completed.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 April 1950

Joint Intelligence Group

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, COAPS

Subject: Proposed "WATCH" and  Committees

25X1

References: a. Memorandum to CIA from General Bolling, 20 January 1950  
b. Memorandum from CIA to I/D, GSUSA, 15 February 1950  
c. Memorandum from COAPS for Standing Committee of IAC, 3 March 1950  
d. Memorandum from COAPS for Standing Committee of IAC, 6 March 1950

1. The referenced memoranda have been studied in the Joint Intelligence Group (JIG), The Joint Staff, and consideration has been given to whether it would be desirable for JIG to participate in Committees such as proposed in references a, c, and d.

2. It has been concluded that JIG participation would be desirable, especially for the following reasons:

a. The Director of Central Intelligence has requested by memorandum dated 3 April, that JIG representatives be designated to participate, on a consultative basis, in the preparation of certain national intelligence estimates prepared by ORE of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), particularly in the formulative stages of preparation. By memorandum dated 13 April, the Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff, agreed to such assistance by JIG.

b. The JIG is the working staff of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) and assists the JIC in performing its functions as the intelligence agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

c. JIG is responsible for procuring intelligence for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and for The Joint Staff, and for integrating intelligence received from all sources and preparing joint intelligence estimates directed by the JIC or the Director, Joint Staff, or requested by other Joint Staff groups.

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d. Estimates such as those which the proposed [ ] and/or WATCH Committee would prepare would have a direct bearing upon strategic planning by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and their supporting committees and Joint Staff groups; accordingly, much of the intelligence in these estimates should be of great value in the preparation of joint intelligence estimates required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and their subordinate agencies.

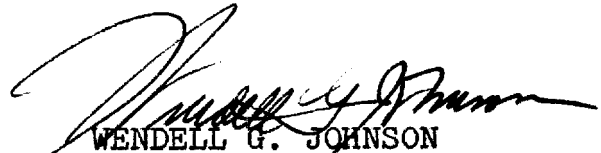
25X1

e. Conversely, many joint intelligence estimates drafted by JIG for JIC consideration and used by Joint Chiefs of Staff agencies will contain intelligence which should be of value in the formulation of estimates such as the proposed [ ] Committee would prepare.

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3. In view of the foregoing facts and discussion, it is recommended that favorable consideration be given to the participation of JIG in any committee that may be established under the concept of those discussed in references a, c, and d.

4. In the event such participation is favorably considered, it should be recognized that the JIG representative will not make the sort of contributions of intelligence that representatives or analysts of the departmental intelligence agencies will be expected to furnish, but rather he should be expected to contribute the assistance envisaged in the memoranda mentioned in paragraph 2 a above, and help to ensure that there is adequate coordination in the preparation of national intelligence estimates and joint intelligence estimates on Soviet intentions and capabilities.



WENDELL G. JOHNSON  
Colonel, U. S. Army

JIG Representative on Standing Committee, IAC

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C O P Y

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Washington, D. C.

*File*

Serial: BL/000773

5 April 1950

MEMORANDUM

From: Navy Member Standing Committee of IAC  
To: Chief, Coordination, Operations and Planning Staff, CIA  
Subj: Watch Committee

1. I concur in the proposed amendments to the Watch Committee directive contained in the Army's memorandum SD-21302-4 of 30 March 1950 with one additional amendment as follows:

Paragraph 5, second sentence - between words "at" and "Watch" insert word "emergency".

2. I consider that an emergency is established by circumstances but not be edict and it should be permissible to send a qualified alternate to a routine meeting. In an emergency the regular members attendance should be mandatory.

/s/ J. M. Ocker

J. M. OCKER

cc: Col. Hammond, GSUSA  
LtCol Marchant, USAF

*Copy sent to AD/ORE  
20 April 1950*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

GENERAL STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SD-

21302-1

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INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, GSUSA

CSGID-IWW 319.26

30 MAR 1950

023874

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
(ATTENTION: CHAIRMAN, IAC STANDING COMMITTEE)  
SUBJECT: Proposed Watch Committee

1. Reference is made to your memorandum with inclosure of 6 March 1950, same subject as above.
2. The proposed Watch Committee and the operating procedure therefor are endorsed in principle.
3. The following changes in the "Proposed Interagency Operating Procedure" are recommended:
  - a. In paragraph 1 a delete the words "in the near future," because indications of Soviet intentions to resort to military action at some distant time have an important bearing on the question of their intentions in the near future.
  - b. Delete the second sentence of paragraph 5 as unnecessary and undesirable: unnecessary, because the vital importance of the proposed Watch Committee would lead to the Committee's receiving high priority as a matter of course; and undesirable, because the relative importance of conflicting demands on the Committee members cannot be exactly anticipated.
  - c. Delete paragraph 7. Its subject is fully covered in paragraph 8 b (2).
  - d. Insert after the word "production" in the first line of paragraph 8 a (4) the words, "... and dissemination to the agencies represented on the Watch Committee ..."
  - e. Delete the final sentence of paragraph 8 a (4) in order not to complicate the early authorization of the Watch Committee by inseparably involving it with the proposed  Committee.
  - f. Delete the last five words in paragraph 8 a (5) and substitute therefor "production of crisis estimates as set forth in paragraph 6, NSCID No. 1."

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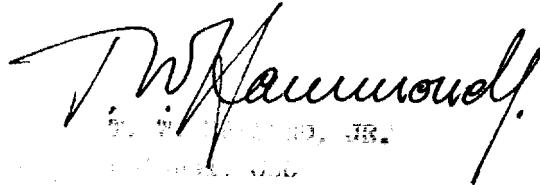
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g. In paragraph 8 b (2) insert after the word "Chairman" in the first line the words ". . . and the other member agencies . . ." This information is important to all the member agencies, and its receipt by them will facilitate the operations of the proposed Watch Committee.



Assistant Executive for  
Planning and Coordination

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CIA 36043

ADDRESSEE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**WASHINGTON**



*Copy sent AD/ORE  
Mar 30.*

March 29, 1950

Dear Mr. Childs:

Reference is made to your memorandum of March 6, 1950, forwarding a draft interagency operating procedure for the proposed Watch Committee.

As you are aware, we are in full accord with the Watch Committee idea. We believe, however, that the specific procedures outlined in the CIA proposal tend to obscure the method by which the Committee should operate and, indeed, the basic purpose for which the Committee needs to be established.

In considering procedures for the Watch Committee, it is important to bear in mind that a committee is not needed merely to effect an exchange of pertinent items of information. The unique feature of a committee -- and the reason a committee is needed in this field -- is that it provides a mechanism whereby all such items of information may be juxtaposed, compared with each other, discussed, and jointly evaluated by the members. Similarly, the committee structure permits joint consideration of the important question: What are the proper and significant categories of information (indicators) having a bearing on Soviet intentions to make war in the near future?

With this in mind we are submitting for your consideration a re-draft of the agreement. While there are a number of minor changes, the most important adjustments we propose are designed to emphasize this deliberative

aspect

Mr. Prescott Childs, Chief,  
Coordination, Operations,  
and Policy Staff,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D.C.

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aspect of the Committee's work. I should be glad to discuss it with you in detail at your convenience.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other action addressees of your memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

*William C. Trueheart*  
William C. Trueheart  
Department of State Member,  
Standing Committee

Enclosure:

Draft of Proposed Interagency  
Operating Procedure.

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PROPOSED INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS AGREEMENT:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Department of State  
Department of the Army  
Department of the Navy  
Department of the Air Force

1. A permanent interagency intelligence committee (hereinafter referred to as the Watch Committee) is hereby established for the purpose of

a. Focusing the attention of intelligence analysts on specific items of political, economic, scientific, and military information tending to show that the USSR does or does not intend to make war in the near future; and

b. Providing an effective mechanism for inter-agency (evaluation) of such information at the working level.

2. The Watch Committee shall act under the chairmanship of the Central Intelligence Agency and shall be comprised of members representing the special and regular intelligence components of each agency participating in this agreement.

3. The Watch Committee shall have emergency procedures which will insure its capability of functioning on short notice on a 24-hour basis.

4. Each

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4. Each member of the Watch Committee shall have free and speedy access to his superiors, including the highest level of intelligence authority in his agency, in order that official approval may be obtained for the handling of important situations without delay.

5. The Watch Committee shall conduct regularly scheduled meetings, at least monthly, at places designated by the Chairman. In addition, special meetings and emergency meetings shall be called by the Chairman whenever, in his opinion, the situation warrants such action or upon request of any member of the Committee. Attendance at Watch Committee meetings shall be regarded as having priority over any other duty assigned to Watch Committee members.

6. The Watch Committee shall prepare and use in its operations a mutually-agreed check list of categories (called indicators) under which items of information tending to show that the USSR does or does not intend to make war in the near future, may be conveniently arranged and considered. Primary responsibility for formulation of specific indicators and for the surveillance of information pertaining thereto shall be allocated to the participating agencies on the basis of their respective fields of dominant interest prescribed in NSCID-3.

7. Each

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7. Each of the agencies represented on the Watch Committee shall be responsible for the preliminary evaluation of information pertaining to those indicators which have been assigned to it in accordance with paragraph 6 above and for the presentation of such evaluations in meetings of the Committee. In addition, each agency has a concomitant responsibility for developing and presenting to the Committee new indicators required to round out, improve, and maintain the check list as an effective working instrument.

8. Specific responsibilities of the members of the Watch Committee shall include those set forth below:

a. The CIA Chairman shall

(1) Maintain the master check list;

(2) Convene the Watch Committee as prescribed in paragraph 5 above;

(3) Produce, at each meeting if possible and if not, within 24 hours after any meeting, a summary report of conclusions reached as a result of the Committee's discussion and joint evaluation of intelligence information, such summaries to include any substantial dissent by a member. These summaries will be distributed to the Director of Central Intelligence and to the heads of the intelligence agencies partici-

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(4) Insure that the activities of the Watch Committee effectively support the objectives of the Jackpot Committee.

b. Each departmental member of the Watch Committee shall

(1) Maintain a departmental check list of the indicators assigned to his agency in accordance with paragraph 6 above.

(2) Immediately notify the Chairman of critical items of information, for circulation to other members of the Committee as a basis for an emergency meeting.

(3) Present at Committee meetings

(a) Information, and his evaluation thereof, pertinent to the indicators assigned to his agency;

(b) Emergency action taken, if any, as a result of intelligence items of an urgent nature;

(c) Proposals for changes in the check list.

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24 March 1950

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director, ORR

SUBJECT: Proposed Watch Committee

1. Herewith is the reply from the Navy dated 23 March to our circular of 6 March to the Standing Committee about the proposed Watch Committee. It is the first one we have received but we understand, orally, that the State Department is also going to object to this proposal.

2. Since copies of the enclosure went to the Army and Air Force, it looks to me that it is possible for a change, that the Pentagon will have a unified front on this but, of course, there are no assurances of that.

3. As you know, State has already approved of the other half of the Bolling proposal, i.e., a permanent Committee on Soviet Intentions and Capabilities but the Navy has not thought that one important enough to set up a formal interdepartmental committee so I don't know yet how the Bolling proposal can be separated or clarified to suit everybody.

4. Apparently there will have to be some more interdepartmental work done on this, maybe at various levels, but we shall know more about that when we receive the other replies.

PRESOTT CHILDS, Chief  
Coordination, Operations  
and Policy Staff

cc:   
Advisory Council

PC/dhl

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Washington 25, D. C.

in reply refer to

Serial: 3281/000760

23 MARCH 1950

MEMORANDUM

From: Navy Member, Standing Committee of IAC  
To: Chief, Coordination, Operations and Planning Staff,  
Central Intelligence Agency  
SUBJ: Proposed Watch Committee  
Ref: (a) CIA 36036 of 6 March 1950

1. The proposed operating procedure forwarded is not approved on the working level in ONI. It appears to place an undue artificial emphasis on the workings of the "Watch Committee", which emphasis should be supplied by international conditions. The enclosure to General Bolling's letter of 20 January 1950 appears to offer a much more workable procedure which is acceptable to me and it is suggested that it be used as a basis for further consideration.

/s/

J. M. OCKER

cc: Col. Hammond, USA  
Lt. Col. Marchant, USAF



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6 March 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE IAC  
ACTION: STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE  
INFORMATION: AEC, JIG, FBI

SUBJECT: Proposed Watch Committee

REFERENCES: (a) Memorandum to CIA from General Bolling,  
20 January 1950  
(b) Memorandum from CIA to ID/USUSA,  
15 February 1950

ENCLOSURE: Proposed Interagency Operating Procedure,  
6 March 1950

1. With reference to discussions on the above subject and to paragraph 9 of reference (b), there is enclosed a draft of a proposed Interagency Operating Procedure based on the statements in reference (b).

2. Kindly let COAPS have the comments of the participating agencies at an early date, before this proposal is circulated for more formal agreement.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief,  
Coordination, Operations,  
and Policy Staff

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6 March 1950

PROPOSED INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS AGREEMENT: Central Intelligence Agency  
Department of State  
Department of the Army  
Department of the Navy  
Department of the Air Force

1. A permanent interagency intelligence committee (hereinafter referred to as the Watch Committee) is hereby established for the purpose of providing timely warning of Soviet military action. To this end the Watch Committee is expected:

a. to focus the attention of intelligence analysts on specific political, economic, scientific and military indicators (positive and negative) of Soviet intentions to resort to military action in the near future, and

b. to provide an effective mechanism for interagency exchange of views on this subject at the working level.

2. The Watch Committee shall act under the Chairmanship of the Central Intelligence Agency and shall be comprised of the currently constituted "Check List Group" which is hereby redesignated the Watch Committee.

3. The Watch Committee shall, in the first instance, review the methods of procedure established by the Check List Group, placing particular emphasis on emergency procedures which will ensure its

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capability of functioning on short notice on a twenty-four hour basis.

4. Each member of the Watch Committee shall have free and speedy access to his superiors, including the highest level of intelligence authority in his agency, in order that official approval may be obtained on the handling of important situations without delay.

5. The Watch Committee shall conduct regularly scheduled bi-weekly meetings at ten o'clock in the morning on Wednesdays at places designated by the Chairman. Attendance at Watch Committee meetings shall be regarded as having priority over any other duty assigned to Watch Committee members. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings and emergency meetings will be called by the Chairman, Watch Committee, whenever the situation warrants such action.

6. The Watch Committee shall utilize the Check List and the check list network presently employed for the above stated purposes, in the conduct of its operations.

7. Each of the agencies represented on the Watch Committee is considered responsible for the evaluation of check list indicators in its fields of dominant interest, as set forth in National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3, and for dissemination thereof to the Central Intelligence Agency Chairman. In addition each agency has the concomitant responsibility for developing new "indicators" required to round out, improve, and maintain the Check List as an effective working instrument.

8. Specific responsibilities of the members of the Watch Committee shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, those set forth below:

a. The Central Intelligence Agency Chairman shall:

(1) Maintain the master Check List.

(2) Convene the Watch Committee as the need arises,

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either on his own initiative or when requested by any member.

(3) Prepare bi-weekly summaries of the activities of the Watch Committee for the Director of Central Intelligence and the Directors of the participating intelligence agencies.

(4) Be responsible for the production of summaries based on developments as shown by information pertaining to the "indicators" and on evaluations thereof by the respective members of the Watch Committee. Such summaries shall serve as a basis for production by CIA of coordinated national intelligence estimates.

(5) Ensure that the activities of Watch Committee effectively support the objectives of the  Committee.

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b. Each Departmental Member of the Watch Committee shall:

(1) Maintain departmental Check List corresponding to fields of responsibility of his agency for intelligence production.

(2) Forward to the Central Intelligence Agency Chairman:

(a) Information concerning any of the "indicators" and his evaluation thereof. If there is an indication of impending Soviet military action, he shall immediately inform all members.

(b) Reports of emergency action taken, if any, as a result of intelligence items of urgent nature.

(c) Proposals for the addition of new "indicators" or the deletion of "indicators" considered no longer valid.

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(3) Prepare, or provide, as required, summaries of intelligence bearing on those "indicators" which fall within his department's particular fields of responsibility.

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